

# THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK

## MONEY MUSEUM



Rockefeller Center

1254 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020

30th December 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

More on the same subject. I do not know how much Buttrey knows of Stillman's plans, tho he has done some work for him in connection with the Fugios. I heard of Stillman's book from a Fugio collector in N. Y.

Incidentally, a lack of die rust does not, in itself, qualify the patterns as original strikes. I have in my drawer a 1798 large cent overstruck on the obverse from one of the New Haven dies. I think you have seen the piece. It belongs to Anton. I weighed it, and it tilts the balance at 163 grains, i. e. it has lost 5 grains. It was therefore a very worn coin, the lack of detail not being (except in a minor sense) attributable to flattening against a hard surface. It has absolutely no sign of die rust. I conjecture that this piece was taken as a dog out of Rust's or someone else's collection and used as a die trial for the New Haven restriking. If this is so, we can assume that the die rust occurred during the 1860's.

If the New Haven dies were made by Droz then the pattern dies were also. They are too similar in style to reflect different hands. The device punch on the Fugio includes the legend Mind Your Business (Note the tilting I and the sloppy second S in both dies). This does seem inferior to what one would expect from Droz. The fact that complete master dies were not used at the Mint until 1836 does not mean it was previously impossible to use them. The only objection was putting the stress of border elements in a master die. Recall also, that in the mysterious undated draft, Boulton had tentatively agreed to furnish Jarvis with 6 pairs of dies. The most ticklish question is why, if Buel made the pattern dies, he abandoned the old gnomon punch, adopted an inferior one, and had not letter punches enough to complete the first production obverse.

I wrote you that I had everything of Boulton's pertaining to the American Mint as Mrs. Harley had thus assured me. I do not have the South Carolina bit, but if it does not pertain to the federal coinage, it is not germane to my theme.

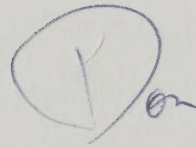
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Mr. Eric P. Newman

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Thanks for the citation. I don't think the cataloguer was saying anything more than he read off the coin. By way of return, however, I enclose a citation which I hope will be of interest to you in your currency book.

You will hear more from me as soon as there is more to say.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Taxay' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald P. Taxay  
Curator

Enc.

dpt/kss